

March 1, 2005

HONORING MEMBERS OF MICHIGAN DIVISION OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the members of Michigan Division of the Polish American Congress, as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of the formation of their parent organization.

The Polish American Congress represents close to 10 million Americans of Polish descent and origin. Its members are comprised of fraternal, educational, veteran, religious, cultural, social, business, political organizations and individual membership. The Polish American community prides itself on its deeply rooted commitment to the values of family, faith, democracy, hard work and fulfillment of the American dream. They are present in every state and virtually every community in America, on various social, business and economic levels.

The Polish American Congress promotes civic, educational and cultural programs designed to further not only the knowledge of Polish history, language and culture, but to stimulate Polish American involvement and accomplishments.

The record of the Polish American Congress is a proud one. Indeed, it is as impressive as its fidelity to its historic political aims over the past 60 years. Their accomplishments, which are numerous, include: Representing the aspirations for freedom and self-determination of the Polish people at the United Nations, at international conferences, in the United States Congress, at the national conventions of the major political parties, and before the Presidents of the United States; gaining U.S. backing for Radio Free Europe to inform the peoples of Communist-ruled Eastern Europe about what was happening in their countries and abroad, and effectively defended continued funding for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty throughout the Cold War era; contributing more than \$200 million in medical and material help to Poles, following the collapse of the Communist-run Polish economy after 1981.

Mr. Speaker, the Polish American Congress, over the past 60 years, has remained a vibrant and effective political action organization, articulating its concerns in Washington and around the country to a host of government and political leaders. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring this organization and its members. Through their dedicated efforts, 10 million Polish Americans today can feel a sense of pride in having an organization that represents their interests and aspirations.

IN HONOR OF ADAM CZUBA

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Adam Czuba on being named Sir

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Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus (K of C). Mr. Czuba was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

The Sir Knight of the Year award is a special distinction given to the K of C member who has faithfully and commendably executed his role as a Fourth Degree Knight, has been most helpful in aiding the Past Faithful Navigator, and has demonstrated a thorough understanding and respect for the ideals of the Order.

Mr. Czuba became a Third Degree Knight in 1975 and has spent decades serving the Council and the Assembly. He achieved the rank of Fourth Degree Knight in 2001 and currently serves in the Color Corps. As a dedicated member of the K of C, Mr. Czuba has helped coordinate multiple events and activities for the Order, such as the flea market, bowling league, country western dances, and numerous charity events.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Czuba has worked for 22 years at the Keystone Folding Box Company. In addition to his involvement with the K of C, Mr. Czuba has served as a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts and is a member of the Hudson County Animal League.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Adam Czuba for his recognition as Knight of the Year, his dedicated work with the K of C, and his outstanding service to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

**HON. CHARLES F. BASS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. NEAL and I rise today to congratulate The New England Council as they celebrate their 80th anniversary of being a regional voice for the people of New England.

For 80 years The New England Council has been instrumental in uniting the region's business and political leaders to discuss and shape public policies and programs that advance the economic well-being of the region. As a nonprofit alliance of schools, hospitals, corporations, public agencies and other organizations throughout New England, the Council has worked diligently to promote economic growth and a high quality of life in the six-state region.

We commend your leadership in identifying challenges and opportunities and looking for regional solutions on issues including energy, workforce development, healthcare, transportation and education.

Under the leadership of Jim Brett and the Council's esteemed Board of Directors, the Council has played a significant role in both providing a forum and in advocating an agenda that addresses the issues which impact New Englanders and the regional economy.

We applaud the Council's efforts to promote the economic growth of New England and to improve the quality of life for those who live throughout the region.

We ask our colleagues to join us in honoring the 80th anniversary of The New Eng-

land Council and in wishing the Council continued success as it faces the challenges and possibilities of the 21st century.

TRIBUTE TO BRUCE M. RAMER

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very good friend, Bruce M. Ramer, who is receiving the Learned Hand Award at the American Jewish Committee's 25th Anniversary Dinner, March 10, 2005. Bruce is a prominent member of the legal profession, a dedicated leader in the community and a distinguished spokesman in support of human rights.

Bruce began his legal career at the prestigious entertainment law firm of Gang, Tyre, Ramer & Brown, and is currently a partner in the firm. Prior to moving to Los Angeles from New Jersey, he earned a graduate degree at Princeton University, attended Harvard University Law School and was active in the military. The National Law Journal ranks him among the 100 most influential lawyers in America, California Business Lawyer cites him as one of the 100 most powerful lawyers in California, and the Daily Journal places him in the top 100 lawyers in California. Over the many years of our friendship, I have developed enormous admiration for his work and valued his advice.

For more than 30 years, Bruce has supported the American Jewish Committee, AJC. He is the Chair of the AJC's Latino and Latin American Institute. He served as National President from 1998 to 2002, chaired the National Board of Governors, the National Executive Council, the National Board of Trustees, and AJC's Asia and Pacific Rim Institute. He also was the AJC's Western Region Chair and past President of the Los Angeles Chapter. His tireless efforts have helped make the AJC the incredible institution it has become.

Bruce has also provided leadership to many other worthwhile organizations. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Pacific Council on International Policy, Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation, the Righteous Persons Foundation, the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the Southern California Committee for the Olympic Games and the Alfred Herrhausen Society for International Dialogue of the Deutsche Bank. He is the Founding Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Geffen Playhouse (UCLA) in Los Angeles, and a member of the Board of Directors of Rebuild LA, LA 2000 Partnership, LA Urban League, United Way, Los Angeles Children's Museum, UCLA School of Medicine and the Jewish Federation Council of Greater Los Angeles. He also served on the Economic Strategy Panel of the State of California and on the American Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Independence. Many people, organizations, and causes have benefited from his dedication and hard work.

In addition to his professional and civic accomplishments, Bruce and his wife Madeline Smith Ramer have raised four children and

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are the proud grandparents of two grandsons. It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join in saluting my friend, Bruce Ramer, for his successful endeavors on behalf of humanitarian and democratic ideals, his exemplary leadership and for his impressive contributions to the field of law.

IN HONOR OF TOM SUMOWSKI

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tom Sumowski on receiving the Emergency Medical Technician, EMT, of the Year award by the Knights of Columbus, K of C. Mr. Sumowski was recognized at the annual Knight of Honors event on February 26, 2005, in Bayonne, New Jersey.

For 5 years, Mr. Sumowski has diligently worked at the McCabe Ambulance Service. A quality EMT, he was recently promoted to the rank of Captain. Known for his dedicated service and compassion, he has earned the respect and admiration of colleagues and friends.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Mr. Sumowski graduated from Seton Hall University and the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Tom Sumowski for his exceptional service to the people of Bayonne. As a result of his tireless work in the medical field and his commitment and enthusiasm, he continues to play a vital role in the community and has positively affected countless lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF DOMINICAN INDEPENDENCE

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on February 27, 2005, we celebrated the 161st anniversary of Dominican independence and the love of liberty that unites the Dominican Republic and the United States and stands as a symbol of freedom worldwide.

The United States is a stronger and better country for the more than one million Dominicans who live here. New York City is even more culturally rich thanks to the more than 650,000 Dominicans who have settled there. I am proud that so many live in my Congressional District.

We, the United States and the Dominican Republic, give each other strength by our mutual support. Americans have always supported Dominican independence and admire the free and fair elections that have helped to make the country a model for emerging democracies. Our friendship inspires us to work towards even greater democratic and economic development.

We in the United States celebrate Dominican independence and the Dominican spirit, a

spirit of liberty and courage—a spirit that values family and faith, education and service—the same spirit that has helped to shape America.

Our nations will work together because our futures are bound to one another. Geography makes us neighbors, but our shared values make us friends—a friendship built on common customs and ideals.

The fight for Dominican independence in 1844 continues to inspire us today. It shows that brave and determined people, committed to a noble cause, can do great good. That was true in the Dominican Republic just as it was true for the United States.

We have come a long way together and we shall continue our journey together with respect and understanding, with mutual support, and with customary respect. Long Live the United States and Viva La Republica Dominicana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POST OFFICE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, one reason I came to Congress is to make the Federal government a better partner to communities. One of the simplest ways to achieve that objective does not require new rules or regulations for local or state governments, and it does not require massive outlays of our budget driving us even deeper into deficit. The simplest answer is for the Federal government to follow the same rules that all others must follow.

To this end, I am reintroducing the Post Office Community Partnership Act. This bill outlines minimum community contact procedures that the United States Postal Service must pursue for any proposed closing, consolidation, relocation, or construction of a post office. Simply put, the bill requires the Postal Service to comply with local zoning, planning, or other land use laws.

This legislation has had the bipartisan support of the majority of the House of Representatives and in past Congresses passed the Senate only to become the victim of the politics of postal reform. In recent sessions there have been efforts at more comprehensive legislation that all include some variation of this bill as an enticement for passage. The pressure from our legislation has in fact encouraged some within the Postal Service to make significant progress. I've met with members of the Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service, the Postal Rate Commissioners, and the National League of Postmasters, and they have made progress. There are outstanding examples of where they have worked with the local community to make the post office an integral part of a downtown or main street.

It is time, however, to make this relationship something that every community can count on. It is time to make this relationship part of the Postal Service's regular activities. It should not be an exception, it should not require luck or

extraordinary political action, and there should be no variation in the commitment to providing the finest examples of being a part of each and every community.

Last year, Congress failed on acting expediently to pass comprehensive postal legislation that included provisions from the Post Office Community Partnership Act. I am hopeful that this hesitation will not be repeated in the 109th Congress. Congress has the opportunity to set the tone for the Postal Service and federal government to become a full partner in the livability of our communities, leading by example so our families are safer, healthier, and more economically secure.

INTRODUCTION OF H.J. RES. 30 AMENDING THE U.S. CONSTITUTION TO GUARANTEE A RIGHT TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 1, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleague, Congressman JESSE JACKSON Jr., to introduce an amendment to the US Constitution to guarantee health care as a right in this nation.

The current state of our health care system, if you want to call it a "system," is bleak. Yet, Congress and the White House continue to ignore the problems we face, or worse yet, offer ideological solutions that only exacerbate our current ills. Making changes to the tax code will do nothing to extend high-quality health care to the millions who are left outside of the system today. I am frustrated, as many Americans are, with the lack of leadership on this issue. This is why I have come back to an idea I had more than a decade ago—to force Congress to provide health care of equal high quality for all by guaranteeing this right in our Constitution.

The problems we see today are the same that have been with us for the past century. While some claim that the U.S. has the best health care system in the world, the high-tech medical technologies that are available to some in this country are out of reach to the 45 million uninsured—including eight million children—and millions more who are underinsured and cannot afford this care. Even when people do have health insurance, barebones policies with high out-of-pocket costs help force millions of families into bankruptcy each year. Access to "the best medical care in the world" shouldn't be determined by your income tax bracket.

And for all the praise of the advanced medical technologies available in this country, high-tech does not necessarily equate to high quality. Although the U.S. spends far more than any other nation on medical care, we do not have the best health status. Studies have shown that overall Americans receive the recommended treatment only 50 percent of the time.

Inequities in our system are not only based on what people can afford or where they live. Perhaps the most disturbing finding in recent years is the disparities in access, treatment,